

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph from page 16, line 24 – page 17, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

In operation, spring 69 illustratively acts between ~~top surface 170~~ top wall of frame assembly 113 and the spring mount or contact portion 117 of the lever 114 to urge the lever to the closed position so that the tooth 88 substantially covers or closes the mouth 36, 180. As described above and known to those skilled in the art, the engagement edge 18 may be engaged with an anchor member to cam or move the lever 114 to the open position. In addition, the lever 114 may be moved to the open position through direct manipulation as follows. Illustratively, lever 114 may be moved from the closed position to the open position by a user gripping and applying pressure to one or more protrusions on the cover 111, such as for example the ears 41 and 42 or the upper surface 122 or forehead of the head in the vicinity of the eyes 44, while applying pressure to the manipulation portion 19 of the lever 114. If desired, a user could also grasp at least a portion of the mounting assembly 112 when applying pressure to the manipulation portion 19. The pressure applied to the manipulation portion 19 illustratively will be generally opposite to the bias force of the spring 69 in order to move the lever 114 and its tooth 88 out of the closed position. Illustratively, the arcuate bottom surfaces 128, 174 allow the lever to be moved or pivoted by direct manipulation to the degree necessary to uncover the mouth 36, 180. As the lever 114 is moved to the open position, its distal end moves through the top opening defined in top surface 170. It will be appreciated, as noted above, that the open and closed

positions could be reversed. In any event, the direct movement of the lever 114 out of the closed position will not only allow extraction of, or disengagement with an anchor member 16, but also will allow insertion of an anchor member 16 into the mouth(s) 36, 180 as one alternative to camming engagement. As shown in FIG. 10, another device or object, such as a leash or other suitable elongate member 20, may be coupled or attached to anchorage 58 if desired.